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Move by Senators for CIA Inquiry Disclosed

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Investigation Could Spark Battle With President Over National Security

1-20-66 BY DAVID KRASLOW
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WASHINGTON—A hitherto unpublicized move within the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to investigate the Central Intelligence Agency promises to precipitate an explosive dispute with President Johnson.

Such an investigation of an agency that lives in the never-never land of spies and mysterious coups d'etat would be one of the most sensitive ever undertaken by Congress.

All moves so far have been made behind the scenes.

Committee Chairman J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.) already has placed on the committee's tentative agenda for this year a study of the CIA's impact on foreign policy, it was learned. This was discussed at a closed door meeting of the committee last week.

Raborn Advised

CIA Director William F. Raborn has been advised informally of what is afoot by Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy (D-Minn.), a committee member and for years a prime advocate of closer congressional supervision of the agency's activities.

Only a few congressmen are informed about the CIA in any detail. The agency employs thousands of persons in Washington and around the world and the amounts it spends annually are hidden

in appropriations for other government departments.

Its operations have run from routine monitoring of foreign propaganda radio broadcasts to clandestine efforts to overthrow governments.

Sen. George D. Aiken of Vermont, the second-ranking Republican on the committee, foresees "massive resistance" to the committee's proposed inquiry from the President and others in the executive branch.

Could Be 'Explosive'

"The confrontation with the executive branch would be quite explosive" if the issue is pressed, Aiken said.

Aiken believes the CIA "doesn't get much supervision" from Congress and thinks the vast intelligence apparatus should be watched more closely from Capitol Hill. But he says he doesn't know how he will vote on authorizing the investigation.

"We talked about this in the committee last week," Aiken said. "I'm in a conflict on this one. I think the agency should have closer supervision."

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